MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : It is stated in the answer that the present Chief Engineer was in charge of the new Madura, Tuticorin and Ramesvaram Waterworks and the Improvement to the Dindigal water works. I wish to know from the member whether all these works were executed simultaneously ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : There is no information on that point available just at present. If it is very material, the information will be called for.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : With reference to the answer to part (*c*) of the question, I wish to know whether the modification in the details in the designs has affected in any way the cost of the scheme ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : I cannot answer that question either, from the papers before me. I claim notice in respect of that question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) : May I know the sections of the scheme in which modifications were effected ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : That information also the Chief Engineer has not supplied in the report which he sent to Government.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum*) ; So all the available information has been given in the answer ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : Yes.

Malayazhma records in the Central Vernacular Records Office.

44. MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : (1) With regard to the *Malayazhma* records in the Central Records Office, will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is in that office any clerk who knows *Malayazhma* ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the negative, whether copies of *Malayazhma* records applied for are now being given to the applicants by temporarily employing men for each application that comes up ;

(*c*) if so, whether they are not men who are not in service under Government and on whom the Government have no sort of control or authority ;

(*d*) how many such men as are referred to in part (*b*) are now (27-11-1106) in the employ of the Government in the Central Records or elsewhere ;

(*e*) if there are any, how long they have been doing this work ; and

(*f*) if those men commit any mistake in copying, knowingly or unknowingly, whether there is anybody competent to check or verify the correctness of the copy ?

(2) Are the Government aware :

(*a*) that for paddy lands the latest Settlement records are those of the year 977 and that those records are all in *Malayazhma* ;

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(*b*) that many of the paddy lands in Neyyattinkara and some other taluks are charged with *tirippuvaram* and that of late there have been much confusion and dispute about this *tirippuvaram* ; and

(*c*) that the public and the Government are put to difficulty because there is no proper arrangement made for the maintenance and copying of valuable records remaining in a language which the public in general do not know ?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have any proposal for the transcribing of such records in the vernacular of the country ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (1) (*a*) None.
(*b*) Yes.
(*c*) Yes.
(*d*) None.
(*e*) This does not arise.
(*f*) None.

(2) (*a*) The latest is not that of 977 but that which closed in 1085. Only the records of some taluks in the Settlement of 977 are in the *Malayazhma* script.
(*b*) Yes.
(*c*) Yes, to some extent.

(3) None at present.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : With reference to the answer to part (*d*) of the question, many I know from the member whether there are not even now some hands working in the Padmanabhaswamy temple and copying the malayazhma records in connection with the Tiriuppuvaram muddle in the Neyyattinkara taluk ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) ; I have no information. The Padmanabhaswamy temple establishment is not under my control.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I know from the member whether they asked the men in charge of the Central Records to supply Government with copies of the Malayazhma records in connection with that case ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I do not remember.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I know, with reference to the answer to part (3) of the question, whether any of the officers in charge of the Central Records Office has brought to the notice of the Government the urgent necessity of making some arrangement ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Not for transcribing.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Have they not brought to the notice of the Government the desirability and the necessity of copying these records ?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. They have made proposals only for arranging the records, cleaning them and indexing them. Transcription is not an easy proposition. The volume of records is so large that it would not be possible to transcribe them within a reasonable time.

Administration of the Central Vernacular Records Office.

45. **MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*): (1) Are the Government aware that the old records kept in the Central Vernacular Records Office are subjected to decay for want of proper control and proper arrangement?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is no proper indexing of contents of records and that very often it is difficult to find a record required;

(*b*) whether they are aware that private parties who are applicants for copies are put to great hardship in getting copies;

(*c*) whether they are aware that there are serious complaints about gross corruption in the Central Records Office; and

(*d*) whether any scheme for the better administration of that office is in contemplation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (1) There has been some delay due to the leakages in the roof when the building was thatched with Dutch tiles. This has since been remedied.

(2) (*a*) there is no index and hence there is difficulty.

The number of *Churunas* in the Records come to nearly 8,000, each of them containing on an average nearly 1,000 *Olas*. No attempt has yet been made towards preparing an index for this huge mass of records.

(*b*) there will be difficulties and delay in finding out records readily in the absence of a proper index.

(*c*) No specific case of corruption has come to the notice of the Government.

(*d*) Proposals are under consideration.

Election of a member to the Legislative Council from the Vaikam constituency

46. **MR. O. M. THOMAS** (*Kottayam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the election to the Legislative Council in the Vaikam constituency was postponed from a date originally announced to a subsequent date; and

(*b*) the reason for such postponement?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The death of Mr. C. S. Madhavan Pillai, one of the validly nominated candidates (*vide* Rule 13 of the Legislative Council Electoral Rules).

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